(b) what is the number of proposals received from the Government of Punjab for development of various tourist spots in the State and what action is being taken by Government of India on this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Government on the basis of specific proposals received from them for augmentation of tourism infrastructure and other tourism related activities depending upon their merit and interse priority.

(b) From the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan till the end of the financial year 1992-93, 30 proposals were received and Rs. 393.83 lakhs sanctioned to the State Government of Punjab, for these proposals.

Overhauling of Tourism Infrastructure in the Country

836. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total tourism infrastructure in the country requires overhauling in view of the scale of International tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Creation and augmentation of tourist infrastructure is a continuous process for which the Central Government extends financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of specific proposals. The State Governments do generally formulate such proposals taking into view various trends in tourism.

Dues of the retiring Employees opted for VRS

837. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the hotels including the Hotel Samrat and Ashoka Hotel under the ITDC have still not cleared the dues of retiring employees who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme for more than ten to twelve months;

(b) whether these employees after opting for the Scheme were given out the release letters but without payment;

(c) whether the managements have been delaying the payment in order to cover up their own administrative defaults;

(d) whether these employees under the law would be deemed to be continuing in employment;

(e) whether Government would order immediate enquiry into the matter; and

(f) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (f) Under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme of ITDC, the employees who opted for voluntary retirement were given relieving letters by the ITDC Management with the instructions to collect their dues after submitting 'No Demand Certificate' from all concerned. ITDC has reported that thirteen employees of various hotels who sought voluntary retirement could not be paid dues pending receipt of 'No Demand Certificate' from them, completion of formalities etc.